

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

January 25, 2017

The Honorable Ajit Pai, Chairman
The Honorable Mignon Clyburn, Commissioner
The Honorable Michael O'Rielly, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Pai and Commissioners,

We appreciate that you have consistently championed efforts to expand 4G LTE and ultimately 5G mobile broadband coverage in rural America. As members of the Congressional delegation for one of the most rural states in America, we urge the Federal Communications Commission to move forward with the Mobility Fund Phase II auction.

Access to wireless technology and broadband internet is essential to economic development and competitiveness in the 21st Century. 4G LTE is the great equalizer that eliminates distance and borders—outdated restrictions to economic growth potential. It is required for commerce, necessary for modern modes of communication and indispensable to public safety. In short, broadband is fundamental to conducting daily life.

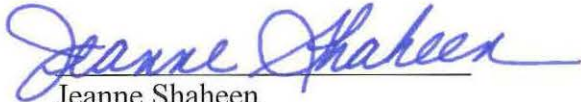
A significant factor for economic development in our rural communities lies in their ability to access wireless broadband. The FCC's own data shows that approximately 3 million people and 750,000 road miles in the U.S. still lack access to advanced mobile wireless service. We believe that Mobility Fund Phase II has the potential to eliminate that disparity if given the proper focus.

Accordingly, we urge the Commission to move forward with the Mobility Fund Phase II auction without further delay. The Commission has compiled a full record in its proceeding and should move ahead with the program. Given the scope of impact and urgent need to address the rural access disparity, the Mobility Fund Phase II auction should be prioritized as the first auction to occur.

We support the use of Universal Service Funds in this manner because it allows rural areas to utilize high-speed technology and access more powerful networks. This has a significant impact on economic development, tourism and public safety for these communities. It is clear that industry is moving toward an overarching goal of advancing wireless standards and services, and that the Mobility Fund has the potential to help unserved and underserved rural markets bridge the divide.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter, and we look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Jeanne Shaheen".

Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Ann McLane Kuster".

Ann McLane Kuster
United States Representative

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Maggie Hassan".

Maggie Hassan
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Carol Shea-Porter".

Carol Shea-Porter
United States Representative



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

February 21, 2017

The Honorable Carol Shea-Porter
U.S. House of Representatives
1530 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Shea-Porter:

Thank you for your letter regarding the need for the Commission to move forward with Mobility Fund Phase II. As your letter makes clear, we share the same goal of ensuring the Commission meets the important promise set forth in the very first sentence of the Communications Act of 1934: To "make available, so far as possible, to all the people of the United States, without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, or sex, a rapid, efficient, Nation-wide, and world-wide wire and radio communication service." I and the hard-working staff at the FCC take this promise seriously.

Closing the digital divide is my top priority, and that's why I have scheduled a vote on the second phase of the Mobility Fund for the agency's February meeting. The Mobility Fund will preserve and advance mobile broadband service in rural America so that rural families and farmers, miners and ranchers, small businesses and growing towns have the opportunity to use the high-speed mobile services taken for granted in urban areas. The Mobility Fund is a long-term investment directing almost five billion dollars to rural America over the next decade. And it is designed to maximize value for taxpayers, using a competitive reverse auction to redirect universal service funding away from already-built areas and toward new 4G LTE services for the millions of rural Americans lacking them today.

Your views are very important and a copy of your letter will be included in the record of the proceeding. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

February 21, 2017

The Honorable Ann McLane Kuster
U.S. House of Representatives
137 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Kuster:

Thank you for your letter regarding the need for the Commission to move forward with Mobility Fund Phase II. As your letter makes clear, we share the same goal of ensuring the Commission meets the important promise set forth in the very first sentence of the Communications Act of 1934: To "make available, so far as possible, to all the people of the United States, without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, or sex, a rapid, efficient, Nation-wide, and world-wide wire and radio communication service." I and the hard-working staff at the FCC take this promise seriously.

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

February 21, 2017

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senate
506 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Shaheen:

Thank you for your letter regarding the need for the Commission to move forward with Mobility Fund Phase II. As your letter makes clear, we share the same goal of ensuring the Commission meets the important promise set forth in the very first sentence of the Communications Act of 1934: To "make available, so far as possible, to all the people of the United States, without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, or sex, a rapid, efficient, Nation-wide, and world-wide wire and radio communication service." I and the hard-working staff at the FCC take this promise seriously.

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

February 21, 2017

The Honorable Maggie Hassan
United States Senate
B85 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

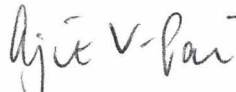
Dear Senator Hassan:

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Sincerely,


Ajit V. Pai

P.S. Senator, I was pleased to see that you had joined the Commerce Committee. I look forward to working with you on matters of importance to the Granite State!